

The life sciences sector in Tianjin make it in China

The visit of a delegation from Tianjin's Economic and Technological Development Area (TEDA) to the UK in June presented an opportunity to showcase one of Tianjin's leading industries, the pharmaceutical sector.

Hosted by the UKTI Life Science sector group, a seminar was held at the DTI conference centre in June. Opened and chaired by Robert Kipps, Senior Sector Manager, UKTI Life Sciences team, who had visited Tianjin, he welcomed the delegation and the fifty delegates in the audience to the first specialist event to cover this particular part of the Chinese market. Anil Vaidya, a Life Science specialist at UKTI, then gave a comprehensive and expert overview of this industry in China. He spoke in detail from the report, which he had prepared for British companies, published in January 2007.

Responding, on behalf of the delegation, Vice chairman Zhang Jun, thanked UKTI for their generous hospitality and warmly welcomed delegates. He hoped that they would gain a greater understanding of the background to this sector in one of China's most important cities. Professor Li Jing then presented a more detailed picture of what Tianjin and TEDA had already achieved in this sector. The bio-pharmaceutical industry is one of four pillar industries of TEDA and more than 70 companies have been established including ingredients, formulation and biomedicine manufacturing, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and medical equipment and instrument manufacture. Professor Li also mentioned the variety of state-level R&D facilities which have been set up in TEDA, including: State stem Cell Engineering, Artificial Cell Engineering Centre, the Tianjin Biochip Research Centre and the Zhongxin TCM Engineering Centre.

Professor Li also spoke about the 12 academic institutions in Tianjin, related to Life Sciences, which produce more than 1,000 graduates a year. TEDA is also home to China's most advanced Cardio-Vascular hospital and is currently building a state-of-the-art general hospital.

In wrapping up, Robert Kipps attested to the vibrant industry that he witnessed during his visit to Tianjin earlier in the year. The delegation welcomed those present to visit TEDA to see for themselves. Anyone wishing to follow up this invitation, or to obtain more detailed information about Life Sciences in Tianjin and TEDA should contact TEDA's UK representative, Madeleine Sturrock on msturrock@pancathay.com.